



Congress Pushing VA on Caregiver Benefits:

Congress is asking VA where the plan is for implementing *The Caregiver and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act* (PL 111-163), which was signed into law last May to provide training, education, a stipend, and mental health counseling to the primary caregivers of severely disabled veterans who require daily care.

VA created a toll-free 1-855-260-3274 resource number and has indicated they are working as quickly as possible, but they have yet to provide specifics, even though the provisions in the new law were supposed to have begun on Jan. 31.

VFW is working with all parties to find a temporary solution that will provide immediate assistance to these beneficiaries.

New Website Links Vets, Spouses to Jobs:

Unemployed veterans, wounded warriors, Reserve Component members and all their spouses can now link to a new Employee Partnership of the Armed Forces website at <http://www.employerpartnership.org/> that helps link people looking for a job with public and private employers who are ready to hire former servicemembers and their spouses. For more information, go to <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=62751>.

First Claims have been processed for New Agent Orange Presumptives~

The VA has decided more than 28,000 claims in the first six weeks of processing disability compensation applications.



Best O' Luck

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY TO YA

Please make it a safe one & have fun responsibly!